

arm.” The Prophet (peace be upon him) told them, “The enemy of Allah, Iblees, came to me with a flame of fire to put it in my face, therefore I said three times, ‘I curse you with Allah’s curse.’ Afterwards, I said three times, ‘I seek refuge in Allah from you.’ But he did not leave after any of these. Then I attempted to seize him. I swear by Allah, that had it not been for the supplication of my brother Solomon, he would have been ‘fettered and made an object of sport for the children of Madina.’” And that type of incident occurred more than once.

Imam Muslim also recorded the following from Abu Huraira: The Messenger of Allah (peace be upon him) said,

إن عفريتاً من الجن جعل يفتك علي البارحة ليقطع علي الصلاة وإن
الله أمكنني منه فدعته فلقد هممت أن أربطه إلى جنب سارية من
سواري المسجد حتى تصبحوا تنظرون إليه أجمعون أو كلكم ثم ذكرت
قول أخي سليمان (رب اغفر لي وهب لي ملكا لا ينبغي لأحد من
بعدي) فرده الله خاسئاً

“An *afreet* [a type of devil] of the jinn escaped last night to interrupt my prayer, but Allah gave me power over him, therefore I seized him and I was planning on tying him to one of the pillars in the mosque, but then I remembered the supplication of my brother Solomon, ‘My Lord! Forgive me and bestow on me sovereignty such as shall not belong to any after me.’ So Allah returned him belittled and despised.”

The Jews lied about Solomon

The Jews and those who follow them in using jinn through the art of magic allege that Solomon used magic to gain mastery over the jinn. Many of the early scholars mention that when Solomon died, the devils recorded books of magic and disbelief and put them under his throne and they said, “Solomon used these books to subjugate the jinn.”

This led others to say that if this art is not permissible why did Solomon perform it. Allah revealed the following,

وَلَمَّا جَاءَهُمْ رَسُولٌ مِّنْ عِنْدِ اللَّهِ مُصَدِّقٌ لِّمَا مَعَهُمْ نَبَذَ فَرِيقٌ مِّنَ الَّذِينَ
أُوتُوا الْكِتَابَ كِتَابَ اللَّهِ وَرَاءَ ظُهُورِهِمْ كَأَنَّهُمْ لَا يَعْلَمُونَ

“And when there comes unto them a messenger from Allah, confirming that which they possess, a party of those who have received the Scripture fling the Scripture of Allah behind their backs as if they knew not” (*al-Baqara* 101). Then He clarifies that they followed what was recited unto them by the devils during the life of Solomon, declaring Solomon innocent of magic and disbelief,

وَاتَّبَعُوا مَا تَتْلُوا الشَّيَاطِينُ عَلَىٰ مُلْكِ سُلَيْمَانَ ۗ وَمَا كَفَرَ سُلَيْمَانُ وَلَٰكِنَّ
الشَّيَاطِينَ كَفَرُوا

“Solomon disbelieved not; but the devils disbelieved, teaching mankind magic and that which was revealed to the angels in Babel, Harut and Marut. Nor did they (the two angels) teach it to anyone till they had said: We are only a temptation, therefore disbelieve not (in the guidance of Allah)...” (*al-Baqara* 102).

They are incapable of performing miracles

The jinn are not able to perform miracles like those of the Messengers that are meant as proof for the truth of their missions. Some of the disbelievers alleged that the Quran was from the workings of Satan, so Allah revealed,

وَمَا تَنْزَلَتْ بِهِ الشَّيَاطِينُ ﴿٢١٠﴾ وَمَا يَنْبَغِي لَهُمْ وَمَا يَسْتَطِيعُونَ ﴿٢١١﴾
 إِنَّهُمْ عَنِ السَّمْعِ لَمَعَزُولُونَ

“The devils did not bring it down. It is not proper for them [to bring it down], nor is it in their power. Lo! Verily they are banished from the hearing” (*al-Shuaraa* 210-211).

Allah challenges all of mankind and the jinn in the following verse,,

قُلْ لِّئِنِ اجْتَمَعَتِ الْإِنْسُ وَالْجِنُّ عَلَىٰ أَنْ يَأْتُوا بِمِثْلِ هَٰذَا الْقُرْءَانِ لَا يَأْتُونَ بِمِثْلِهِ وَلَوْ كَانَ بَعْضُهُمْ لِبَعْضٍ ظَهِيرًا

“Say: Verily, though mankind and jinn should assemble to produce the like of this Quran, they could not produce the like thereof though they were helpers one of another” (*al-Israa* 88).

They are not able to appear like the Prophet (peace be upon him) in a vision or dream

The devils are incapable of appearing in the shape of the Prophet in a dream. At-Tirmidhi has recorded, with a *sahih* chain, that the Prophet (peace be upon him) said,

مَنْ رَأَىٰ فَإِنِّي أَنَا هُوَ فَإِنَّهُ لَيْسَ لِلشَّيْطَانِ أَنْ يَتَمَثَّلَ بِي

“Whoever sees me, then it is me, for the devils cannot appear like me.”
 And in the *two Sahihs* the wording is,

¹ Al-Albani, *Sahib al-Jaami*, vol. 5, p.245.